

# Development Model

## **MARRULUT ENIIT – DILLINGHAM’S ASSISTED LIVING HOME**

Marrulut Eniit (Yup’ik for Grandmother’s House) is a 10-unit assisted living home that opened in Dillingham, Alaska, in February 2000. Dillingham is located in rural Southwest Alaska, on the shores of Bristol Bay, 400 air miles from Anchorage. The regional population is 7,700, dispersed throughout 32 villages. Dillingham is the regional hub for transportation and healthcare.

The development process began in the fall of 1996 when the Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) received predevelopment funding from the State of Alaska, Division of Senior Services, to conduct a needs assessment for assisted living in the Bristol Bay region. BBNA then organized a steering committee comprised of individuals from the agencies providing services in the region.

The needs assessment project included holding community forums in five regional villages to provide information about different types of housing and services, and to elicit opinions from residents about what type of services they would like to see in the region. Using the recommendations resulting from these forums, the steering committee decided to pursue developing a 10-unit assisted living home in Dillingham.

A separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization – Marrulut Eniit Assisted Living – was established that would own and operate the home and oversee the construction aspects. The Board of Directors included representation from all the regional provider agencies that contributed funds or services to the facility, each board member bringing the expertise of their agency. The board is comprised of representatives from the Housing Authority, Native Association, Area Health Corporation, City Government, Tribal Council and an Elder selected by the community. Each of the agencies signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The MOA’s not only specified their commitment to the project by providing their services to the facility, but also specified financial support if the facility needed it in the future.

Curyung Tribal Council in Dillingham became the first agency to offer funding to begin the development phase of the project. They awarded BBNA \$25,000 of their BIA compact funding. The City of Dillingham donated a prime piece of property in the immediate vicinity of downtown and across the street from the local senior center and independent apartments.

Utilizing the services of a development contractor, Bristol Bay Housing Authority then applied for funding from Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, and received a Senior Citizens Housing Development Grant for \$900,645. Once this funding was in place, the developer sought other grants from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and the Federal Home Loan Bank. The final funding award came to Curyung Tribal Council and Ekuk Native, Ltd. in the form of two \$500,000 HUD Indian Community Development Block Grants. The total funding for predevelopment, construction and furnishings was \$2,323,645.

Construction began in the summer of 1999, and was completed in February 2000. After the formation of the nonprofit corporation and the completion of the construction of the facility, the housing grant recipients passed ownership of the facility to the new board of directors. The State of Alaska issued a license for operation as an Adult Residential Care II home. Marrulut Eniit became home to its first resident on February 14, 2000.

# Timeline for Marrulut Eniit Assisted Living Development Process

